

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8180

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN

SUBJ: LI TEH-SHENG ATTENDS NORTH KOREAN ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: THE CHINESE AND NORTH KOREANS USED THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DPRK TO AGAIN DISPLAY PUBLICLY THE CORDIALITY OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP. BENEATH THE SURFACE, HOWEVER, DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE SOVIET UNION, JAPAN, AND THE U.S. OBVIOUSLY REMAIN. END SUMMARY

1. A PRC DELEGATION LED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN LI TEH-SHENG VISITED PYONGYANG SEPT 8-11 TO TAKE PART IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DPRK. IN PEKING, THREE OF THE OTHER FOUR VICE CHAIRMEN--CHOU EN-LAI, WANG HUNG-WEN, AND YEH CHIEN-YING--ATTENDED A RECEPTION ON THE OCCASION AT THE KOREAN EMBASSY. THIS HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION TO THE NORTH KOREANS AND THE EFFUSIVE SPEECHES ON THE OCCASION UNDERLINED THE CURRENTLY VERY CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN PYONGYANG AND PEKING.

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2. PEKING USED THE OCCASION TO REPEAT ITS FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE

FIVE POINT PROGRAM PUT FORWARD BY KIM IL-SUNG IN JUNE AND TO RE-STATE ITS CONTINUING HARD LINE AGAINST THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO OPPOSE ANY "TWO KOREAS PLOTS," ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO PUBLIC MENTION OF THE CURRENT DISPUTE OVER SOUTH KOREA'S PROPOSAL FOR SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH INTO THE UNITED NATIONS. PEKING, AS USUAL, SUPPORT PYONGYANG'S DEMAND FOR A "WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS" FROM SOUTH KOREA WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH THIS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

3. THIS APPEARANCE OF UNANIMITY WAS ACHIEVED BY IGNORING TWO MAJOR COUNTRIES ON WHICH THE NORTH KOREANS AND CHINESE HAVE BEEN IN DIS-AGREEMENT--THE USSR AND JAPAN. PEKING AVOIDED ANY DISCUSSION OF ITS (ANTI-SOVIET) ANTI-HEGEMONY THEME AND NORTH KOREA OMITTED REFERENCE TO JAPANESE MILITARISM. ON THE US TOO, THERE WERE SOME OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES. IN AN EFFORT TO PLAY DOWN CONFLICTS WITH THE US OVER THE PENINSULA, THE CHINESE DID NOT REFER TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE KOREAN WAR. A SEPT. 9 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL NOTED ONLY THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD BEEN "ASSISTED AND SUPPORTED BY PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER." THE KOREANS EXPRESSED THE USUAL APPRECIATION FOR CHINESE WARTIME SUPPORT. ON THE SUBJECT OF OBSTRUCTING REUNIFICATION, DPRK PREMIER KIM IL (LI'S HOST) SINGLED OUT A "US IMPERIALIST SCHEME TO CREATE TWO KOREAS" FOR CRITICISM WHILE LI TEH-SHENG PLACED FULL BLAME ON THE "PAK JUNG HI CLIQUE" AND PEOPLE'S DAILY BLAMED THE LATTER "WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES."

4. COMMENT: AS LONG AS "THE IMDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA REMAINS THE WATCHWORD OF THE NORTH KOREANS IN DEALING WITH THE SOUTH, THE CHINESE ARE OBVIOUSLY WILLING TO GO TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO SHOW THE WARMTH AND CORDIALITY OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THE ENTHUSIASM OF BOTH SIDES, HOWEVER, IS TEMPERED BY SOME CONTIUNG BASIC POLICY DIFFERENCES OVER THE SOVIET UNION, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

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